

Gassino, Vain and boastful, at times an undis-
 guised plagiarist, and most probably a falsifier
 of documents in the interests of the abbey,
 is yet a historian of lifelike; and entertaining
 powers. The great moment of his life came
 when the death of Semorectus had left a
 disputed succession in the abbey and when Lothar
 descended into Italy (1137), It was this monk who
 rode with the Abbot Rainald to the camp at
 Lagupesole, and before the Emperor and the Pope
 maintained with fluent eloquence the right; of the
 Empire to suzerainty over the great abbey, Here
 naturally the narrative of Peter becomes detailed and
 vigorous?
 the Emperor, delighted to hear the
 claims of Rome and Sicily thus refuted, heaped
 honours upon the orator, After 1140, we hear no more
 of Peter; with all his faults he had maintained
 not unworthily the literary tradition of Monte
 Caisino bequeathed to him from Leo of Osttft,
 Alfano, and Paul the Deacon,

The two historians whom we must
 rely upon most for the history of the reign are
 Falco of Benevento and Alexander of Telcse.
 Of the former is an out-and-out opponent of

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Falco, the author of a *Chronica di
 sna gesti*) was a citizen of a

¹ F&lco of Benevonto and **Alexander** «« *In* Del
 Ri, **Serttfart**_t
L Kihl (K) in *N*ues Artkfo.*, t, xxvli., p, 453 **ttg**,_t
 tits
 •hewn that tho /*gnoti Mm. Ctit** **Sta.&**
fmmi»
Chtonim (ed, Gawder«i, &*r. **Nap**, rft' **wrivi.**,
Ckon*
ache, Napta, iBSS) i«ntnlñ fwrtinfw of Faleo
 (i«ff-ne§ and
 1140-1149} which. «« from **Uw toxt**